

State of the City Address

January 22, 2008

City Council Members, Murray Citizens, staff and visitors, thank you for allowing me a few moments to share the accomplishments of our City in 2007.

When the Murray M logo was adopted in 2002, the group selecting it also agreed upon a tag line to accompany it. We have chosen to focus more on that slogan in the past year. You may have seen it on the banners in the core of the City last fall. It fits our City more each day -“ **There’s More to Murray.**” This has been an incredible year and I’d like to invite you to join me on a visual tour that will showcase the fact that “**There is More to Murray.**”

As we leave City Hall and look to the west, our skyline has been completely changed. Where two chimneys stood as landmarks for many years, the new Intermountain Medical Center rises and catches the first rays of the sun coming over the mountains. We have enjoyed participating in the dedication of each phase of the hospital with the culmination of the patient tower in September.

Our building department has successfully stretched to provide expertise, inspections and dedication in the role they played. The hospital is a good example of the fact that one third of the construction projects in our City come as rebuilds or renovations. This amazing new facility will be a catalyst to additional rebirths in the core of our City as well as to prove that “**There’s More to Murray.**”

The vision to build a new north/south corridor, with the Cottonwood Street bridge at the center, will be more appreciated as it becomes a valuable secondary route through the City. As we travel to the north, we come toward our Power Department. They have been progressive thinkers, focusing on good environmental principles. Combining their technical knowledge and the conviction of our Council, this year has provided another building block for earth friendly power with the addition of the renewable gas project at the Trans-Jordan Landfill. With all our hydro-power, the City/County landfill gas plant and the Trans-Jordan project, 36% of the City power portfolio will come from renewable resources. The Power Department has successfully sold excess coal power resources and green tags to improve our reserves and provide for future projects.

Traveling east along 4500 South we can see the benefits of the road widening project from I-15 to State Street. UDOT has been a partner in making this gateway much more appealing and a fitting entrance into the north end of our City. We have also worked with them on 5300 South and State Street as the intersection has been reconfigured. The work there will be completed in the spring and will improve the safety and traffic flow in that area. We survived a major gas line upgrade this year along the State Street corridor. The spring will also bring anticipated landscape improvements to our 5300 South and I-15 gateway.

Moving to the far north boundary of our City brings us to our Fireclay Redevelopment area. The Council has been diligent in working to use the tax increment wisely to provide new infrastructure in this underdeveloped area. This year a new sewer trunk line will be built to provide for the growth anticipated here. It is exciting to see the beginnings of our first Transit Oriented Development coming out of the ground. The rebuilt Deseret Industries is a cornerstone to this area and will set

the stage for other improvements along the State Street corridor.

As we continue along the far north border of the City, it is a good time to focus on some less visible improvements showing **“There’s More to Murray.”** Our MIS Department worked to get City facilities on the UTOPIA network. It has provided very fast internet service, which improved the productivity of our employees. MIS developed a calendar application for our webpage to keep our residents updated and the look of the City page was redone.

This has been a banner year for the use of over-the-phone, and internet payments by our residents. On line registration for Parks and Recreation programs has also been very successful. Residents have been receptive to these time saving services and have increased their use of them by about 40% in the last year. This service will also be in place for use in our Municipal Court in March. I believe the Interactive Voice Response phone system will enhance our ability to provide fast customer service.

Our Utility Relief Program is helping our residents who have challenges covering their basic utilities. In this program’s second year we have helped almost 450 residents with a modest \$13,000. Our Treasurer and Finance Departments have been instrumental in implementing these programs and making them successful.

Next, I want to take you to see the results of some of your budgeted funds in specific locations. As we turn west off 900 East, we head toward Southwood Park. The tennis courts are being retrofitted and will be complete this spring. Architects have designed our replacement pavilions for Murray Park. I love the unique yet functional shapes they will have. Work is progressing well on the improvements around the Ken Price Ballfield. With a regional baseball tournament coming in August, we are all looking forward to hosting the Babe Ruth World Series in 2009. Our Parks Department has been doing their share to use our water resources wisely as they have installed Maxi-Com computerized watering systems in several of our parks and other properties we own.

As we turn onto Glen Oaks Street, you will notice the greatly improved condition of this street. This has been one of our much needed local street projects that was completed this year. Our residents have been delighted with the improvements here and on Sagewood, Germania, Oakmont and others. I received many compliments on how our City crews helped make these projects not just bearable, but interesting to watch as homeowners communicated with our staff on a routine basis.

On Vine Street moving to the east, we round the curve to see two new City structures. The smaller one is the new pump house for one of our water wells. It now shares its location with our new fire station 82. This station will remove the need for our satellite station and will help us provide even better service to this area. It is scheduled for completion in the spring. Station 83, to be built at 5900 South and 500 West, will begin construction this year. It will include the added feature of a permanent Emergency Operations Center in the basement. This will help with our preparedness and allow our residents to focus on the fact that **“There is More to Murray.”**

On the corner of Vine and 1300 East, we see one of the nine elementary schools in our City. Our Cultural Art Division received ZAP grant funds to provide music specialists, theater programs or

other art experiences in each of our elementary schools. I appreciate the great relationship we have with our school partners in providing DARE programs and sharing facilities when possible.

As we turn west onto Winchester, we will drive by another success story of the past year. To the south is a Park and Ride facility that had been misused for years. It had become a storage facility for tractor trailers, among other inappropriate equipment. It was difficult for our residents and others to use. Completing an interlocal agreement with UDOT and with their help, we have reclaimed this facility and now can enforce the original intent of this Park and Ride.

Moving down Winchester is a good time to mention the re-alignment of Cottonwood Street and 300 West. With the Mid-Jordan Light Rail project moving forward, we have secured federal funding to help make this area flow better and be safer to use. The project will be completed along with the building of the rail spur, with UTA including this road in their construction.

Approaching State Street and turning north brings us to the Fashion Place Mall. It is in the beginning phases of a great facelift. The first Cheesecake Factory in Utah opened their doors this fall and has been well received. The Mall is preparing to move two of the anchor stores to the north - Nordstrom and Dillards will both be rebuilt - increasing both in size and modernization. The Mall will expand as the footprint stretches to meet the demand of shoppers who keep this a very busy facility.

Traveling north on State Street we pass our very successful Heritage Senior Center. They have expanded their hours this year and are finding some of their participants enjoy programs in the evening.

This is the heart of our business zone. Our Recorder's Office processed 564 new business licenses in the past year, bringing our business total to 3733. One example of a new business is on the corner of 5900 South and State where a credit union is being built.

Murray City Library is in the process of a renovation. Demand for computer use and evolution of library services in general have prompted this facelift. The Library is borrowing funds from the City that will be repaid over the next few years. There was no tax increase to make these improvements.

Under the direction of our HR Department, a Wellness Committee has been formed and is actively functioning in the City. They have worked hard to provide creative programs for our employees to motivate them to improve their health. I believe we will see benefits to our insurance premiums, but especially to the well being of our employees. They serve us well and I applaud each of them for their part in proving **"There's More to Murray."**

As we move back toward City Hall and our starting point, there are a few more things to mention that indicate **"There's More to Murray."** Our Police Department has undergone a renovation and the addition of a new Crime Investigation Lab. A first-of-it's kind partnership is being formed with the State Crime Lab to allow both parties to provide services to each other so information can be shared and gathered more easily. This resource will give our Police Department a greater ability to provide services to our residents.

Our Murray Youth Government has combined this year with the Murray Youth Chamber to form the MYCC. Under the watchful eyes of their mentors, they have provided many services and learned more about what makes our City tick. They are a bright spot in our City!

As our tour of the City comes to a conclusion, I would like to focus on the future. Being accessible has been important to me as I have served the City. I would like to take the opportunity to offer personal tours like this, of the City, during the next year. A bus will be provided and I would love to show anyone interested that **“There’s More to Murray.”** If there are questions or concerns, this would be a nice venue to discuss them. More information will be available in the Updates in the Murray Journal and on our webpage.

Through the years I have enjoyed learning about our City and sharing my insights with you. This year, I would especially like to hear from you. I am proposing conducting a survey to help me as your Mayor, understand what **residents** think of our City. It would be very helpful to have your thoughts on the services you receive and learn where you would like your tax dollars spent. A survey is a tool that will allow us to measure progress as questions are asked again at various times in the future. I look forward to the opportunity to learn from you and respond as much as possible to your desires.

Thank you for your time and interest tonight. I believe 2008 will be another year with amazing possibilities. We are fortunate to live here and enjoy the fact that **“There’s More to Murray.”**